

Message Text

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LUSAKA FOR EASUM

1. YOUNGHUSBAND'S WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE WAS DRAWN SUBSTANTIALLY FROM TWO ARTICLES IN SUNDAY TIMES(WHICH IS PUBLISHED WITH EDITIONS IN JOHANNESBURG,CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN). FIRST ARTICEL, BY GUY BERNARD, APPEARS UNDER PAGE 3 BANNER HEADLINE, 'U.S.NAVY NEEDS SIMONSTOWN,' WITH WASHINGTON DATELINE. SECOND ARTICLE BY 'MILITARY CORRESPONDENT' CAREL BIRKBY ENTITLES, 'SA HAS WON 'BATTLE OF INDIAN OCEAN',' APPEARS ALONGSIDE FIRST.AS REQUESTED REFTEL, TEXT OF BOTH STORIES IS TRANSMITTED BELOW.

2. TEST OF BERNARD ARTICLE:

U.S.NAVY NEEDS SIMONSTOWN

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SOVIET BUILD-UP IS FORCING THE ISSUE

BY GUY BERNARD

WASHINGTON,SATURDAY

THE PENTAGON'S TOP STRATEGISTS ARE IN NO DOUBT THAT THE UNITED STATES NAVY NEEDS ACCESS TO SIMONSTOWN IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE VITAL SEA LANES AROUND THE CAPE-- AND THEY WANT IT BADLY.

THE GROWING PRESENCE OF RUSSIAN NAVAL FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN,POSING AS THEY DO A MENACING THREAT TO THE WEST'S OIL JUGALAR, IS CAUSING INCREASING CONCERN IN THE AMERICAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

THE PROBLEM IS, HOWEVER,DOMESTIC POLITICS AND THE ANTI-SOUTH AFRICA ATTITUDE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S AFRICANISTS, WHO ARE AFRAID OF AROUSING THE IRE OF THE EMERGENT BLACK NATIONS BY SEEMING TO SIDE WITH AN APARTHEID REGIME.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING IS NONETHELESS UNDER WAY, EVEN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A CLOSE WATCH IS CONSTANTLY KEPT BY THE CIA AND THE EVEN MORE HUSH-HUSH NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY WHICH OPERATES SPY SATELLITES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

THE VERY LATEST FIGURE FOR THE RUSSIAN NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, ACCORDING TO PENTAGON SOURCES IS 35 SHIPS, OF WHICH HALF ARE DEFINITELY COMBAT RATHER THAN MERE SUPPLY SHIPS OR SO-CALLED TRAWLERS,WHICH BRISTLE WITH RADAR. THE FORCE INCLUDES, FOR THE FIRST TIME,THE NEW HELICOPTER CARRIER LENINGRAD,AND AT LEASTFOUR SUBMARINES--MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.

OUTSPOKEN

PROFESSOR ALVIN COTTRELL,DIRECTOR OF AMERICA'S GEORGETOWN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,WHO IS NOT UNDER ANY OFFICAL RESTRAINT AGAINST SPEAKING OUT, HAS HAMMERED AWAY HARD AND LONG ON THE THEME OF HOW VITAL SIMONSTOWN IS TO WESTERN DEFENSE--ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS THE CRUCIAL SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR WESTERN EUROPE, AND TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN EVER BEFORE, FOR THE UNITED STATES AS WELL.

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HE IS LISTENED TO BY THE ADMIRALS WHO ENVY HIM BEING ABLE TO 'CALL IT OUT' AND IS A FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE STRATEGIC REVIEW PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC INSTITUTE, WHICH IS DIRECTED BY ADMIRAL JOHN MCCAIN,FORMER UNITED STATES NAVY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN THE PACIFIC, AND A GOOD FRIEND OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ADMIRAL BIERMANN.

'WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA' ADMIRAL MCCAIN TOLD ME, 'MAKES OUR POSSESSION OF DIEGO GARCIA MORE IMPORTANT

THAN EVER. BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT WE ABSOLUTELY NEED ACCESS TO SIMONSTOWN AND DURBAN.'

PLAIN FACT

REFERRING TO THE OBJECTIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENT AFRICANISTS TO DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA, PROFESSOR COTTRELL SAID:
'THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT WHEN OUR VITAL INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE WE WILL TAKE THE MEASURES NECESSARY, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS.'
HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, TO A DEAL TO USE SIMONSTOWN AS A KEY REFUELLING AND MAINTENANCE BASE.

THE SUNDAY TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON REPORTS THAT THERE ARE TWO MAIN REASONS WHY MR. HAROLD WILSON, THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, HAS INCITED THE IRE OF THE ANTI-APARTHEID BLOC IN BRITAIN BY ALLOWING A BIG ROYAL NAVY FORCE TO EXERCISE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY--AS IT IS NOW GOING--IN APPARENT DEFIANCE OF THE LABOUR PARTY'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF TRYING TO TREAT THE REPUBLIC LIKE A PARIAH.

FIRSTLY, MR. WILSON HOPES THAT MR. VORSTER WILL REWARD HIM BY, AS ONE DIPLOMAT PUTS IT, 'DRAGGING IAN SMITH TO A CONFERENCE TABLE TO SETTLE THE RHODESIA PROBLEM BEFORE EVENTS GET OUT OF HAND IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,'

SECONDLY, WASHINGTON HAS AGAIN PUT PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO 'SHOW THE FLAG' IN THE VITAL SEA LANES OFF THE REPUBLIC BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET BUILDUP.

THE PENTAGON, IN SHORT HAS PERSUADED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, NOTWITHSTANDING ITS ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN RHETORIC, TO REASSERT THE IMPORTANCE OF SIMONSTOWN.

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SUCCESS

PENTAGON STRATEGISTS, STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY BRITISH OFFICERS IN NATO, FEEL THAT AFTER THE PRESENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND ROYAL NAVIES, IT MAY EVEN BE POSSIBLE FOR AMERICAN WARSHIPS TO PUT IN AT SIMONSTOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EISENHOWER PRESIDENCY.

THE SUNDAY TIMES MILITARY CORRESPONDENT REPORTS THAT THE INFLUENTIAL UNITED STATES STRATEGIC INSTITUTE, OF WASHINGTON, HAS WARNED THE WHITE HOUSE: 'IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD MAINTAIN ADEQUATE NAVAL AND AIR CONTINGENTS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN WITHOUT RECOURSE TO SIMONSTOWN.'

THE ONLY PRATICAL,ECONOMIC WAY TO STATION MORE WARSHIPS
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ALONG THE TANKER ROUTE'IS TO HOMEPORT THE
SHIPS IN A LITTORAL NATION.'

3. TEXT OF BIRKBY ARTICLE.

SA HAS WON BATTLE OF INDIAN OCEAN

BY CAREL BIRKBY MILITARY CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICA'S DEFENCE FORCE CHIEFS HAVE WON THE 'BATTLE'
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BY SECURING THE SUPPORT OF THEIR BRITISH
FRENCH AND AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES.
THIS HAS BEEN DONE SO SUCCESSFULLY THAT HOSTILE POLITICIANS
ABROAD HAVE BEEN OUTMANOEUVURED AND WESTERN COOPERATION AT THE
CAPE AND IN THE WATERS NORTH-EAST OF IT IS NOW ASSURED.

THESE ARE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS:

THE SECOND ROYAL NAVY SQUADRON TO VISIT TABLE BAY AND SIMONSTOWN
IN TWO MONTHS, WITH 11 SHIPS UNDER THE FLAG OF VICE-ADMIRAL M.C.
LEACH, WILL TAKE PART IN COMBINED EXERCISES WITH UNITS OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN NAVY AND WITH MARITIME COMMAND AIRCRAFT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
AIR FORCE OFF THE COAST THIS WEEK.

1A FRENCH FLOTILLA LEFT BREST ON MONDAY, HEADING FOR THE CAPE
AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT CONSISTS OF THE 33,000TON AIRCRAFT
CARRIER CLEMENCEAU--THE FIRST CARRIER THE FRENCH HAVE SENT TO THE
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INDIAN OCEAN--PLUS TWO FRIGATES AND SUPPORT VESSELS.DURBAN

THE FRENCH WILL PROBABLY NOT CALL AT SIMONSTOWN,I UNDERSTAND
BUT AT DURBAN BEFORE SAILING ON TO REUNION,WHICH FRANCE HAS BEEN
FORCED TO TREAT AS THE BASE TO REPLACE DIEGO SUAREZ AT THE
NORTHERN TIP OF MADAGASCAR.

LATER THE FRENCH SHIPS WILL OPERATE MAINLY OUT OF DJIBOUTI.
THE UNITED STATES WILL GO AHEAD WITH PLANS TO DEVELOP THE
LITTLE BRITISH ATOLL OF DIEGO GARCIA,IN THE VERY HEART OF THE
INDIAN OCEAN,AS SOMETHING MORE THAN A COMMUNICATIONS BASE--
WHICH INCIDENTIALLY WILL BE LINKED WITH THE PROJECTED TELSTAR
COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE TO HOVER OVER THE OCEAN ON THE EQUATOR.
DIEGO GARCIA WILL BE ABLE TO SERVICE AMERICAN WARSHIPS NOW
SCHEDULED TO PATROL THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED
WITH AN AIRSTRIP CAPABLE OF TAKING THE GIANT B52 BOMBERS.

ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE TEETH OF TOUGH
POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN BRITAIN,FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE HAVE BEEN A DECISIVE FACTOR,AS IS
EVIDENT FROM A RECENT STUDY BY THE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC
INSTITUTE,WHICH I HAVE SEEN.

THE LEFT WINGERS ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CREATED THE GREATEST
DIFFICULTY IN THE THREE COUNTRIES TO WHICH SOUTH AFRICA LOOKS
CHIEFLY FOR ASSISTANCE IN GUARDING THE CAPE ROUTE--THE CAROTID
CHOKE-POINT OF THE WESTERN WORLD'S VITAL OILSUPPLY SYSTEM.

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